

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted preliminary to examination in the concurrently filed Request For Continued Examination (RCE), and as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated November 15, 2005 (U.S. Patent Office Paper No. 12112005). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, Claims 1 through 20 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, 11, 15 and 17 are being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. Entry of the amendments to Claims 1, 6, 11, 15 and 17 is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,850,531 to Rao et al., hereinafter the Rao '531 Patent. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4, 9, 14, 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the Rao '531 Patent, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,452,920 to Comstock, hereinafter the Comstock '920 Patent. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The above rejections of Claim 1 through 20 will be considered collectively.

Features of a packet switching apparatus of the present invention, such as recited in Claims 1, 6, 11 and 17, are that the packet switching apparatus includes: a pathfinding table for containing entries on a plurality of entry lines, to which the identifier of an output tunnel or an input tunnel including one session or a bundle of a plurality of sessions through which packets are logically passed to a point in a network, and the identifier of an output session or an input session are defined; and a processing unit for packets received which searches the pathfinding table for an entry line matching with the route information included in a packet received, and performs processing for the received packet, according to packet output route information specified on the searched out entry line, and sends out the

received packet through the output port identified by the output port identifier on the specific entry line, and wherein each of the entries of the pathfinding table contains a correspondence among an identifier of an input tunnel of an input packet, an identifier of an input session of the input packet, and an identifier of an output port of the input packet.

Further, features of a packet switching apparatus of the present invention, such as recited in Claim 15, are that the packet switching apparatus includes: a pathfinding table for containing entries on a plurality of entry lines, to which route information to be known when a first packet of a session is received and associated information about the identifier of an output port through which to send out the packet received are defined; and a processing unit for packets received which searches the pathfinding table for an entry line matching with the route information included in a packet received, performs processing for the received packet, according to packet output route information specified on the searched out entry line, and sends out the received packet through the output port identified by the output port identifier on the specific entry line, and wherein each of the entries of the pathfinding table contains a correspondence among an identifier of an input tunnel of an input packet, an identifier of an input session of the input packet, and an identifier of an output port of the input packet.

A feature of a packet switching apparatus of the present invention, such as respectively recited in Claims 1, 6, 11, 15 and 17, is that each of the entries of the pathfinding table contains a correspondence among an identifier of an input tunnel of an input packet, an identifier of an input session of the input packet, and an identifier of an output port of the input packet. It is respectfully submitted that by using such pathfinding table, as in a packet switching apparatus of the present invention, a packet communication apparatus can execute routing according to the input tunnel identifier of the input session identifier.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that a packet switching apparatus of the present invention can run as the access node for networking and can also implement offering diverse network services for a plurality of access methods (See Specification, Page 32, lines 12-15).

On the other hand, the Rao '531 Patent discloses that a LPI transmit function adds a media specific layer two encapsulation headers (See Col. 11, lines 51-58 of the Rao '531

Patent), and one of the types of connection indicates VLAN (See Col. 12, lines 60-65 of the Rao '531 Patent).

Further, the Rao '531 Patent only discloses a table including correspondence between a destination IP address and some flag, referring to Figure 6 therein, or other table including a correspondence between a destination IP address or a source IP address and an output port, referring to Figure 7 therein. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that a packet communication apparatus of the Rao '531 Patent executes routing according to only a destination or a source IP address.

In this regard, it is respectfully submitted that the Rao '531 Patent does not disclose pathfinding based on the identifier of tunnel, the identifier of a session or the identifier of an output port, but only discloses the packet switching apparatus available for VLAN.

Also, the other cited reference, the Comstock '920 Patent, discloses Mobile IP tunneling (See Col. 2, line 55 to Col. 3, line 2 of the Comstock '920 Patent).

Further, the Rao '531 Patent and the Comstock '920 Patent do not disclose a pathfinding table including an entry to which the identifier of an output tunnel or an input tunnel including one session or a bundle of a plurality of sessions, the identifier of an output session or an input session, or the identifier of an output port are defined, as well as not disclosing a corresponding processing unit.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the above identified features of a packet switching apparatus of the present invention, such as recited in Claims 1, 6, 11, 15 and 17, are neither suggested nor disclosed in the Rao '531 Patent or in the Comstock '920 Patent; and it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 6, 11, 15 and 17 are not anticipated by the Rao '531 Patent or are not obvious over the Rao '531 Patent in view of the Comstock '920 Patent. Further it is respectfully submitted that dependent Claims 2 through 5, 7 through 10, 12 through 14, 16 and 18 through 20 are at least allowable for the same reasons that the independent Claims 1, 6, 11, 15 and 17 from which they respectively depend are allowable.

Withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and Claims 4, 9, 14, 17 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1 through 20 are respectfully requested.

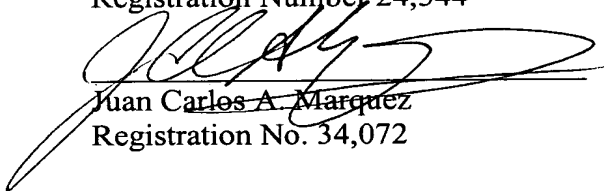
Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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